



**U.S. Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
Western District of Texas**

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**FORMER OAKLAND ATHLETICS FIRST BASEMAN ARRESTED AND CHARGED WITH
FAILURE TO PAY OVER \$724,000 IN CHILD SUPPORT**

United States Attorney Johnny Sutton, Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott and Special Agent in Charge Mike Fields of the Dallas Regional Office for the Department of Health and Human Services–Office of Inspector General announced that 43-year-old Troy Neel, former Austin resident and Major League Baseball player with the Oakland Athletics, faces a federal charge of foreign travel to evade legal child support obligations.

An indictment, returned on March 2, 2005, by a federal grand jury sitting in San Antonio, Texas, and unsealed yesterday, alleges that Neel has traveled in foreign commerce since December 1998 in an effort to avoid paying child support for two children. According to the Texas Attorney General's Office, Neel owes \$724,325 in child support dating back to November 1998.

Neel's last known residence was on the island Republic of Vanuatu in the South Pacific. Federal authorities arrested Neel yesterday at Los Angeles International Airport. Neel remains in the custody of the United States Marshals Service awaiting transfer to the Western District of Texas. Upon conviction, Neel faces up to two years in federal prison and up to a \$250,000 fine.

A indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.

This case was investigated by the Department of Health and Human Services–Office of Inspector General and the Texas Attorney General's Office–Child Support Division with assistance from the Travis County District Attorney's Office. Assistant United States Attorney Bud Paulissen is prosecuting this case on behalf of the Government.

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